



## Office of Secretary of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

### Daily Media Watch

12 May 2010

#### CURRENT

##### **DADT Repeal Effort: More Smoke and Mirrors – SDGLN.com**

Even when they do not tell, they are asked. A 2007 victim of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) was asked by her first sergeant if she was gay. She responded in the negative. They still discharged her. Another service member, a male, raped a female service member. The Army kept the rapist and kicked out the perceived good gay! We cannot allow the analysis that is ongoing to delay the repeal of DADT. This week we have over 300 LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) veterans in Washington, D.C., to lobby Congress and the military. Through this effort the goal is to get the repeal of DADT now as well as set up a working group of volunteer LGBT veterans to work with the Pentagon on the DADT issue.

##### **Help Available For Sexually Traumatized Female Vets – KFOX14.com**

According to one El Paso Veteran Administration physician, more than half of all women serving in the military have been sexually victimized, often by those they serve alongside. The new Veteran's Association Women's Clinic at William Beaumont Army Medical Center is now offering help to victims of military trauma. Dr. Jan Rogers, director of the VA Women's Clinic, said “I've seen veterans that it didn't just happen to once. It happened more than once,” said Rogers.

##### **Our views: Overdue Help For Families, Women Vets Finally Coming – Florida Today**

The latest initiative toward helping families is the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act, which Congress passed with unanimous support and President Obama signed last week. It targets help to the 230,000 women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan but face roadblocks to care. Many suffer problems unique to their gender: Sexual harassment and sexual assault, injuries that damage their reproductive health, etc. The bill establishes better care for victims of sexual trauma and pushes looking for ways to tailor more VA programs for women.

##### **Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault – Prevention and Intervention – Combined Arms Center Blog by LTG Robert L. Caslen, Jr., Commanding General, Combined Arms Center**

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault are taken seriously at Fort Leavenworth and CAC, as they are in the Army at large. The Army has been a pacesetter for our nation in the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault. I call upon everyone in our Fort Leavenworth community to make it their objective to eradicate sexual harassment and sexual assault. Each community member should know three things to help eradicate sexual harassment and sexual assault: Intervene...Act...Motivate.

-- More --

## PREVIOUS

### The Changing Veteran Poses Challenges For The VA – NPR

Another issue is how to care for female veterans. The VA lacks everything from obstetrician-gynecologists to group therapy sessions just for women...Another problem is that the women's clinic at the VA hospital is all the way in the back of the building. "A young female veteran walking through the VA is very aware of herself, because it's mostly Vietnam veterans. All their heads turn and they're all watching you." ... "It's very uncomfortable walking all the way to the back of the hospital to get to this clinic. Because if you have experienced military sexual trauma that's the last thing you're going to want to do."

### Women veterans winning battle on health care – Reading Eagle

Now, the Lebanon facility is the best in the nation at providing services to female veterans...A federal law signed last week addresses some of the inequities in treatment women receive when they leave the service. The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act promises better health services for the nation's roughly 1.8 million female veterans. What the new law will do is provide dedicated, women-only space at the various facilities and also fund the launch of a child care program so that women can bring their children to their medical appointments and have them supervised while they are being treated. There long have been complaints by women, especially in the case of sexual assaults, that a female assault victim would have to sit in a waiting room full of men waiting to see a doctor.

### Standing up for female warriors – Napa Valley Register

I am an Iraq veteran from 2003 and served with the Army's First Armored Division, in Baghdad, Iraq, right after the war began. I was later diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from numerous incidents that occurred in theater... Instead I had to drive 2,100 miles from St. Louis, Mo., to Long Beach, Calif., to attend an Military Sexual Trauma-focused program at the VA to treat my PTSD.

### MILITARY: Female vets issues finally getting attention – North County Times

Though women in combat experience the same mental trauma as their male comrades, the Department of Veterans Affairs has only recently begun accessing their needs, according to a report titled "Combat to Community" issued last year by the veterans advocacy group Swords to Plows. Through late 2009, the number of female veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder nationwide reached 11,713, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### Our Back Yard Mine Field – Salem News.com

There is another type of mine you won't find in Explosive Ordinance Disposal (like The Hurt Locker) manuals. They are the only mines we have to worry about here in the United States. They have the designation PTSD/MST. These are our Fathers, Mothers, and other relatives who come home with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

### Women fit for combat - GoErie.com

Opponents of women in combat believe that women don't meet the fitness standard without "gender norming." Also, opponents of women in combat say that women have a greater vulnerability to sexual assault, not necessarily by the enemy, but also by fellow soldiers.

### CFB commander charged in Ont. deaths was kept up to date on ... - St. John's Telegram

The Toronto Star is reporting that Col. Russell Williams, the former commander of CFB Trenton facing murder and sexual assault charges, received regular updates on the police investigation that would lead months later to his arrest. More than 100 pages of emails obtained by the Star show that word of Cpl. Marie France Comeau's murder reached her alleged killer's inbox shortly after midnight on Nov. 26, 2009, one day after her body was found in her home in Brighton, Ont.